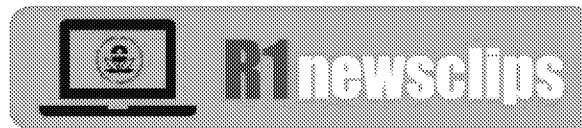


Message

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**From:** Wintrob, Paul [Wintrob.Paul@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/26/2021 12:58:22 PM  
**To:** R1 NewsClips [R1\_NewsClips@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** News Clips for Friday, November 26, 2021



Cleanup – Brownfields | Cleanup - Superfund; Climate Change | Climate Change | Energy | Energy; NEPA | Energy; Water – Permits; Water - Surface | Enforcement - Compliance | NEPA | PFAS | Tribal | Waste – Food Recovery | Waste – Solid Waste Management | Water - Drinking | Water - Surface

### **Cleanup – Brownfields**

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**Fund sought to revive underutilized buildings across the state**

Source     Telegram & Gazette Online - Nov 26, 2021

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**Maine insulation firm raising \$85M to rehab former Madison paper mill**

Source     Bangor Daily News Online - Nov 24, 2021

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### **Cleanup - Superfund; Climate Change**

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**More Safeties Required to Prevent Climate Change Turning Toxic**

Source     EcoRI - Nov 25, 2021

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### **Climate Change**

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**Some ski resorts opening later than planned due to warm temperatures**

Source     VT Digger - Nov 25, 2021

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## Energy

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### **Mechanic Falls council adopts solar farm moratorium**

Source Central Maine Today Media - Nov 26, 2021

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### **Interior Department approves second large U.S. offshore wind farm**

Source Portland Press Herald Online - Nov 26, 2021

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**US backs wind farm between R.I. and Long Island; The Interior Department**  
● **said the 12-turbine, 130-megawatt South Fork wind farm would create about**  
**340 jobs and provide enough power for about 70,000 homes**

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Source The Boston Globe - Nov 25, 2021

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● **Coal's power getting doused Stringent pollution controls on wastewater**  
**resulting in power plant shutdowns**

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Source The Hartford Courant - Nov 25, 2021

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### **Solar farm will pay Old Town \$25K a year to lease city land**

Source Bangor Daily News Online - Nov 24, 2021

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### **DEP commissioner suspends permit for \$1B transmission line**

Source Bennington Banner Online - Nov 24, 2021

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## Energy; NEPA

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● **Maine suspends N.E. hydro project's license**

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Source The Boston Globe - Nov 25, 2021

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## **Energy; Water – Permits; Water - Surface**

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**Pilgrim nuclear plant may release 1M gallons of radioactive water into bay. What we know**

Source Cape Cod Times Online - Nov 26, 2021

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## **Enforcement - Compliance**

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**● Manchester landlord agrees to \$15,000 EPA penalty**

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Source The New Hampshire Union Leader - Nov 24, 2021

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## **NEPA**

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**Tweed opponents say they don't want airport's noise, traffic or pollution**

Source Connecticut Post Online - Nov 25, 2021

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## **PFAS**

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**Contaminated deer show the far reach of 'forever' chemicals**

Source Central Maine Today Media - Nov 26, 2021

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**Maine found 'forever chemicals' in deer, but has no idea how widespread the problem is**

Source New Hampshire Union Leader Online - Nov 25, 2021

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**State to expand testing of deer, and add turkeys, too, after 'forever chemicals' found in Fairfield-area animals**

Source Central Maine Today Media - Nov 25, 2021

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## **Tribal**

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**The Passamaquoddy Tribe is keeping its culture alive a drumbeat at a time**

Source     Bangor Daily News Online - Nov 26, 2021

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## **Waste – Food Recovery**

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● **The gleaners; The founder of Hope's Harvest has a mission: Plucking 'seconds' from RI farms to feed people. Given a minute, she might talk you into helping.**

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Source     The Providence Journal - Nov 25, 2021

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## **Waste – Solid Waste Management**

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**Quarry landfills started as a good idea a century ago, but are now a problem**

Source     Bangor Daily News Online - Nov 25, 2021

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## **Water - Drinking**

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**North Attleboro suspends fluoride treatment due to supply issues**

Source     Sun Chronicle Online - Nov 26, 2021

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## **Water - Surface**

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**Oysters, Both Wild and Farmed, Clean Polluted Marine Waters**

Source     EcoRI - Nov 25, 2021

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## US backs wind farm between R.I. and Long Island; The Interior Department said the 12-turbine, 130-megawatt South Fork wind farm would create about 340 jobs and provide enough power for about 70,000 homes

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### ABSTRACT

The Interior Department said the 12-turbine, 130-megawatt project would create about 340 jobs and provide enough power for about 70,000 homes.

### BODY

PROVIDENCE — The federal government on Wednesday signed off on the South Fork wind farm, which will be built off **Rhode Island's** coast and provide power to New York.

The South Fork wind farm is a 12-turbine, 130-megawatt project, about 19 miles southeast of **Rhode Island** and 35 miles east the easternmost tip of Long Island. The Department of the Interior approval clears the way for construction and operation of the site.

The Interior Department said the project would create about 340 jobs and provide enough power for about 70,000 homes. As the name implies, the power generated by the turbines would be delivered to Long Island's south fork.

"We have no time to waste in cultivating and investing in a **clean energy** economy that can sustain us for generations," Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland said in a news release.

The project is a 50/50 split between Årsted and the utility Eversource. Årsted's US headquarters are split between Providence and Boston, and though it's global headquarters is in Denmark, it employs some 250 people in the United States.

Regulators in the Interior Department and the Department of Commerce signed off on what's called a record of decision Wednesday. The developer still has to file a facility design report and a fabrication and installation report before going ahead with construction, but the Interior Department described the deal as approved, and those did not seem like significant hurdles: Årsted said construction was expected to begin in the weeks and months ahead.

Because it's off the coast of **Rhode Island**, the project also needed to go through **Rhode Island** regulators. Earlier this year, the **Rhode Island** Coastal Resources Management Council approved the project through what's called a consistency concurrence, essentially agreeing that it was consistent with the coastal policies in the Ocean State. The approval came despite opposition from some environmental groups and fishing interests, which said its location in Cox Ledge would harm species such as the Atlantic cod.

The developers agreed to pay \$5.2 million to help **Rhode Island** fishermen recoup their losses from the project under the deal worked out here. Some fishing interest groups said that wasn't enough.

The **Rhode Island** Fishermen's Advisory Board, a group of representatives from the fishing industry, said Wednesday that it maintained its opposition to the project, calling the approval process "broken."

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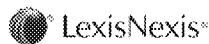
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## **Coal's power getting doused Stringent pollution controls on wastewater resulting in power plant shutdowns**

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Climate change isn't what's driving some U.S. coal-fired power plants to shut down. It's the expense of stricter pollution controls on their wastewater.

Dozens of plants nationwide plan to stop burning coal this decade to comply with tougher federal wastewater guidelines, according to regulatory filings, as the industry continues moving away from the planet-warming fossil fuel to make electricity.

The new wastewater rule requires power plants to clean coal ash and toxic heavy metals, including mercury, from plant wastewater before it is dumped into streams and rivers. The rule is expected to affect 75 coal-fired power plants nationwide, according to the *Environmental Protection Agency*.

Those plants had an October deadline to tell their state regulators how they planned to comply, with options that included upgrading their pollution-control equipment or retiring their coal-fired generating units by 2028.

The national impact of the wastewater rule is still coming into focus, but at least 26 plants in 14 states said they will stop burning coal, according to the Sierra Club, which has been tracking state regulatory filings. Twenty-one of the plants intend to shut down, and five indicated they may switch to natural gas, the environmental group said.

The rule will reduce the discharge of pollutants into the nation's waterways by about 386 million pounds annually, according to *EPA* estimates. It's expected to cost plant operators, collectively, nearly \$200 million per year to implement.

Those that intend to close include two of Pennsylvania's largest coal-fired power plants, Keystone and Conemaugh outside Pittsburgh, which said they will stop using coal and retire all of their generating units by Dec. 31, 2028, regulatory notices show.

The plants opened more than 50 years ago and together employ about 320 full-time workers and 170 contractors. They generate enough power for perhaps 1.5 million homes, according to industry averages for coal plants of their size.

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In addition to Pennsylvania, states with power plants that plan to stop using coal by 2028 are Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia, according to Sierra Club data.

Power producers that say they will shutter coal-fired units as a result of the new rule include Atlanta-based Southern Co. and Houston-based NRG. Southern, which operates electric utilities in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, said it will shutter two-thirds of its coal fleet, including units at the nation's two largest coal-fired power plants, Scherer and Bowen, both in Georgia. NRG said it plans to stop burning coal at its domestic plants outside Texas, and install new pollution controls at its two Texas plants.

The electric power sector has spent years transitioning to cheaper, cleaner-burning natural gas and renewables like wind and solar. Nationwide, about 30% of generating capacity at coal plants has been retired since 2010, according to the Energy Information Administration. (Coal use at power plants is expected to surge more than 20% this year because of sharply higher natural gas prices - the first such increase since 2014 - but the energy agency said it expects that trend to be temporary.)

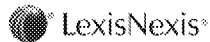
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## **Maine suspends N.E. hydro project's license**

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### ABSTRACT

**Maine's** top environmental protection official suspended the license for the New England *Clean Energy* Connect transmission project Tuesday evening, putting the project that's a critical part of the Baker administration's energy and climate policy on ice unless and until a court rules in its favor.

### BODY

**Maine's** top environmental protection official suspended the license for the New England *Clean Energy* Connect transmission project Tuesday evening, putting the project that's a critical part of the Baker administration's energy and climate policy on ice unless and until a court rules in its favor.

**Maine** Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Melanie Loyzim wrote in her decision that "at this point there is not a reasonable likelihood of the Project being able to deliver power" in light of **Maine** voters essentially rejecting the project on the Nov. 2 ballot.

"I find the approval of the referendum by the voters of **Maine** is a change in situation and circumstance that requires suspension of the License," Loyzim wrote in the order.

The suspension is the latest in a handful of significant blows to Governor Charlie Baker's energy and climate agenda. The NECEC project was supposed to bring renewable hydroelectric power generated in Quebec through **Maine** and into the regional power grid to fulfill part of a 2016 *clean energy* law.

Baker's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs did not comment Wednesday on the suspension of the NECEC license. Instead, a spokesman sent the news service the same one-sentence comment he provided on Nov. 3 saying the Baker administration is still reviewing the outcome of the Nov. 2 vote. **Maine** Governor Janet Mills certified the results of that vote last week.

Officials here have said the project could supply about 17 percent of the state's electricity demand and could reduce **Massachusetts** electric bills rates between 2 and 4 percent each year under contracts already approved by the **Massachusetts** Department of Public Utilities. It was also seen as key to meeting the state's *carbon emissions* reduction requirements for 2030.

Baker said earlier this month that he does not think the project is dead and pressure on him to back away from NECEC has been mounting ever since the Nov. 2 vote.

During a **Maine** DEP hearing Monday, an attorney for Central **Maine** Power Company argued that the license should not be suspended because project backers could seek to reroute the NECEC corridor to avoid the Upper Kennebec Region.

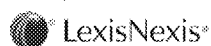
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### **Manchester landlord agrees to \$15,000 EPA penalty**

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A Manchester landlord has agreed to pay a \$15,700 penalty stemming from violations related to lead paint issues with one of his residential rental properties, the U.S. *Environmental Protection Agency* said.

Mike Bunie Inc. signed the consent decree in August, which ends the *EPA* investigation.

The federal agency said Bunie leased an Arlington Street apartment to a pregnant woman and

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young child in violation of a state order not to lease out vacant apartments until they were remediated for lead.

The *EPA* also said Bunie failed to disclose properly a previous lead poisoning in the building.

Bunie said it was his first time dealing with the lead remediation process, and he signed the consent decree to put the matter behind him and avoid further expense. He stressed that he did not admit any guilt.

"It sounded," he said, "like the better course, the easier course, the course with less stress and angst."

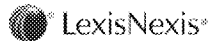
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### **The gleaners; The founder of Hope's Harvest has a mission: Plucking 'seconds' from RI farms to feed people. Given a minute, she might talk you into helping.**

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PORTSMOUTH - The view of Narragansett Bay from the crest of Aquidneck Island was stunning, but Eva Agudelo was more interested in the ground beneath her feet.

Searching for stray cabbages in one of the fields at DeCastro Farms, she picked her way through the dirt, stopping every few steps to bend down, slice through a stalk and retrieve a leafy green head. Agudelo worked with a practiced hand, as did the two volunteers who labored alongside her on a brilliantly sunny morning. In less than two hours, they harvested about 1,300 pounds of cabbage.

None of it was destined for sale. Instead, Agudelo, executive director of Hope's Harvest *RI*, made sure it was all donated to feed the hungry.

Founded three years ago by Agudelo, her Providence-based nonprofit occupies a unique niche in *Rhode Island's* food system, collecting unharvested fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste and distributing them to food pantries and other organizations that help the poor.

With Thanksgiving here and Christmas just around the corner, this is typically a busy time of year for Hope's Harvest as it gathers up everything from apples to kale to butternut squash for holiday meals.

But it's even busier this year because of the unseasonably warm weather. There hasn't been a hard frost yet, so farmers are still able to harvest their crops. And that means Agudelo and her team are still hard at work gathering up whatever is left behind.

Farmer Stephen DeCastro came through this field off Middle Road the day before and took all the cabbages he could sell. But it's not worth his time to harvest the ones that remain. Most are too small for grocery stores. Others are misshapen.

If Agudelo hadn't called him, DeCastro would have plowed the vegetables under to enrich the soil and ready the field for next year's planting of corn.

"If it's a little small or a little big, people complain. There's nothing wrong with the cabbage that we're cutting today. They're just undersized for the consumer market," DeCastro said from the seat of his tractor. "These days, nobody wants it unless it's absolutely perfect."

"I want it!" Agudelo practically shouted as she tossed cabbages into a bin.

Getting produce to the hungry

Their exchange neatly encapsulates what Hope's Harvest is all about. An extraordinary amount of fruits and vegetables goes unharvested - billions of tons a year nationwide - because they may not look right, they may be surplus to what a farmer can sell or they're too labor-intensive to collect.

"The farmers aren't doing anything wrong," Agudelo said. "People think of it like a factory - you make as many widgets as you have customers for. But the natural world is nothing like a widget factory."

That's why Hope's Harvest stepped in. While there are longstanding operations in other states to ensure produce isn't wasted, before Agudelo started her organization three years ago, there was nothing like it in *Rhode Island*.

The *Rhode Island* Community Food Bank used to organize trips to farms from time to time, and smaller food pantries would sometimes do the same. But those excursions didn't happen often and groups were limited in how much they could take.

A former program director at the food bank who holds a master's degree in nutrition science from Tufts University, Agudelo had spent years working with farmers and knew what was available if it could just be collected.

'It wasn't anybody's job to do this'

"The farmer's job is to farm. The food pantry's job is to give out food. It wasn't anybody's job to do this. And it has to be," she said.

The specific word for what her organization does is gleaning. The term itself goes back to the 14th century, but the practice of farmers allowing people onto their land to gather what remains after the harvest is ancient.

Hope's Harvest has a single overarching goal: to make sure produce that would otherwise go unpicked gets to those in need.

But by doing that, the organization fulfills several other aims. Clearly, it reduces the amount of food that goes to waste.

But it also addresses an issue of social inequality by ensuring that people who depend on monthly

or weekly supplies from a food pantry are getting the freshest produce, which will stay good longer.

Hope's Harvest strengthens the local food system by making it less dependent on imports from other states. It cuts down on greenhouse-gas *emissions* associated with trucking food long distances.

And, though the organization gets much of the produce it collects for free, it has started paying for a good deal of food, not only buying surplus goods but also contracting with farms to grow crops.

That's money that goes directly to farmers, which helps keep them in business. It's no small thing in a state that has the most expensive farmland in the nation, where the incentive to sell can be significant.

In its first year of operation, Hope's Harvest collected 36,000 pounds of food. That number grew to 274,000 pounds last year.

Volunteers harvest crops

Agudelo started Hope's Harvest by herself, but she's no longer alone. The organization has another full-time employee, and a staff position is filled on a rotating basis by an Americorps member. During the busiest months of late spring and summer, Agudelo also brings on paid harvesters.

But the endeavor is in large part dependent on the organization's team of volunteers, some of whom will show up a few days a year and others who treat their work almost as part-time employment, coming out three times a week or more.

Donna Matthews, a volunteer at the Portsmouth Community Food Bank, falls into the former group so far. She's participated in a handful of gleanings, but she also picks up deliveries from the Hope's Harvest operations center in Providence once a week. If not for the fresh fruits and vegetables, the food bank would be buying canned goods.

"I know our clients are grateful for the fresh produce," Matthews said. "This is a tremendous help."

It may seem a difficult task to attract volunteers for what can be dirty, difficult work. Who really wants to spend an August day picking corn under an unrelenting sun for no pay when they could be napping on a beach instead? A lot of people, it turns out.

Agudelo had no trouble persuading people to lend a hand. She'd set up a table in farmers markets and talk to passersby.

"I'd say, 'Do you want to volunteer on farms to feed the hungry?'" she said. "And some people would keep walking and for others, I'd see it immediately, and they'd go, 'Yeah, yeah, I do.'"

Her powers of persuasion were evident at DeCastro Farms when she handed a knife and bucket to a reporter and had him searching for heads of cabbage alongside Matthews and fellow volunteer Bob Green.

Hope's Harvest now has a core group of about 25 volunteers who come out regularly. Their numbers swelled at the height of the pandemic last year when, for some people, gathering produce outside became attractive as a safe form of social interaction.

"Our trips were filling up within two hours of me posting them," Agudelo said.

'We do the work'

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DeCastro and his two brothers run a farmstand on East Main Road, which they supply from the 99 acres they own and another 40 acres they lease. Now 65 years old, DeCastro's been farming his whole life.

"When we bought our first tractor, my father put me on it to see if I could reach the pedals," he laughs.

The family grows sweet corn, green beans, peppers, tomatoes - anything that can be sold at the stand. They also supply wholesalers in Providence and Boston. As for the less-than-perfect produce, what DeCastro describes as "the seconds," his family eats what they can, but the rest would otherwise stay in the fields.

"It would have gone to waste," he said. "So I'm just glad to help."

He lifted the full bin of cabbages into the Hope's Harvest box truck. The vegetables were destined for the Elisha Project, an East Providence nonprofit that prepares meals for the poor.

"It's been good working with you this year, Steve. I appreciate it," Agudelo told DeCastro.

"We didn't do a whole lot," he said.

"That's the whole idea," Agudelo said. "We do the work."

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